



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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Martin O'Malley
Governor

Shari T. Wilson
Secretary

Anthony G. Brown
Lieutenant Governor

Robert M. Summers, Ph.D.
Deputy Secretary

November 5, 2009

Dear CAFO Operator:

As required by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has developed a general surface water discharge permit (Discharge Permit) establishing operational requirements and management practices that apply to concentrated animal feeding operations known as "CAFOs". The new Discharge Permit will become effective on December 1, 2009.

The Department has received your notice of intent (NOI) to be covered under the Discharge Permit. Because of delays that will be caused by so many farms seeking development of the required Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) and the limited number of certified CNMP preparers, MDE is sending you the enclosed Compliance Schedule to legally bridge the gap between the effective date of the permit and the earliest date that you are able to obtain your certified CNMP.

Please note that by signing and complying with the requirements in the Compliance Schedule you are able to continue your operations and you will be protected from an enforcement action by MDE related to the requirement to have a permit. The Department will use its enforcement discretion and allow the Compliance Schedule to act in place of the permit until you are able to complete all the requirements of the discharge permit.

To be considered in compliance with CAFO requirements, you must complete and submit to MDE the enclosed "CNMP Status Form", "CAFO Supplementary Information Form" and a signed General Compliance Schedule by **January 4, 2010**. Please mail to: Gary F. Kelman, CAFO Unit, Land Management Administration, 1800 Washington Blvd, Baltimore MD 21230.

Although you have already filed an NOI for a CAFO permit, if, at any time, you determine that your operation does not discharge or propose to discharge pollutants to waters of the United States, you may, instead, apply for a Maryland Animal Feeding Operation (MAFO) permit and withdraw your CAFO application. Please note as well that under Paragraph #8 of this Compliance Schedule you are able to terminate the agreement for any reason.

For updated information regarding the CAFO and MAFO permits, please refer to the enclosed fact sheet or visit the MDE's website at www.mde.state.md.us or contact Mr. Kelman at 410-537-4423 or by e-mail at gkelman@mde.state.md.us.

Sincerely,

Horacio Tablada, Director
Land Management Administration

Enclosures: 1) General Compliance Schedule and forms; 2) Copy of Permit to be effective December 1, 2009; and 3) CAFO/MAFO Checklist

cc: Gary Kelman, CAFO Unit